



THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WATH

(North Riding of Yorkshire)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1968

WATH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1968

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Chairman of the Council:

Councillor F. S. Foster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor S. R. Fryer

Members of the Housing, Planning and Health Committee:

Councillor J. Brocklebank, C.B.E., J.P., (Chairman)

" T. Barker

" F.L. Dawney

" F.S. Foster

" G. Frank

" S.R. Fryer

" J.F. Graham

" R.H.P. Irvine

" Mrs. I.M.E. Weatherhead

" J.C. Webster

" I. Wells

Officers of the Council:

Clerk of the Council:

W.C. Eden, 7, Park Street, Ripon. Tele. Ripon 3576.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. Gray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Manor Road, Easingwold. Tele. Easingwold 324.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

M.D. Hey, M.A.P.H.I., 7, Park Street, Ripon. Tele. Ripon 3576.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1968

To the Chairman and Members
of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

It is again my privilege to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District.

Live births are low, being 80% of the number which would represent the national birth rate applied to our population, whilst deaths are higher by 6%. Nine of the twenty deaths occurred in people over the age of 75 years; but motor vehicle accidents accounted for three deaths in young people resident in the area, and a further four people normally resident elsewhere were killed on the roads within the district. The motor vehicle is the major health hazard in the area.

The increasing cut of finance leads all authorities, and possibly smaller authorities in particular, to go cautiously with capital schemes, and it seems likely that the smaller villages will have to wait longer for modern sewage disposal works. It is pleasing to note, however, that sewage from the large catering establishment on the Great North Road is now taken away and treated in our own works, relieving the water supply from any danger of pollution from this source.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health District Council.

C. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

It is again my privilege to present my Annual Report on the health of the
Health District.

Five births are lost, being 80% of the number which would represent the
national birth rate applied to our population, whilst deaths are 14% of the
rate of the twenty deaths occurred in people over the age of 75 years; but motor
vehicle accidents accounted for three deaths in young people resident in the area.
and a further four people normally resident elsewhere were killed on the roads
within the district. The motor vehicle is the major health hazard in the area.

The increasing cost of finance leads all authorities, and possibly smaller
authorities in particular, to be cautiously with capital expenditure, and it seems
likely that the smaller villages will have to wait longer for modern housing
disposal works. It is pleasing to note, however, that sewage from the large
catering establishment on the Great North Road is now taken away and treated in
our own works, relieving the water supply from any danger of pollution from this
source.

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STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Description

The Rural District of Wath is situate on the extreme South-West corner of the North Riding of Yorkshire and is on the borders of the West Riding. It lies in the Vale of York and is extremely flat. The area is predominantly agricultural in character, the land being of excellent quality.

The area is bounded on the East by the River Swale and on the West by the River Ure. Neighbouring authorities are the Ripon & Pateley Bridge Rural District Council, Bedale Rural District Council, Thirsk Rural District Council and Easingwold Rural District Council.

Statistics

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1968)	2460
Number of dwelling houses in the District. a. Privately Owned	574
b. Council Houses	145
c. Service Married Quarters	48
Area in acres	17,007
Number of Parishes	11
Rateable Value	£107,291
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£423-0-0d

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	17	11	28
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Live birth rate 12.2 (Corrected by factor 1.11) 13.4. England and Wales - 16.9.
 Illegitimate live births per cent of total births - 6.7%.

Stillbirths - There were no stillbirths in the year.

Infant Deaths - (deaths under 1 year) - One infant death was recorded.

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births - 33. (England & Wales - 18.0).
 Legitimate " " " legitimate " - 36.
 Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " - Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality rate {deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births} - 33.
 Early Neo-natal " " { " " 1 week " " " " } - 33.
 Peri-natal " " {stillbirths and deaths under 1 week/1,000 births} - 33.

Maternal Mortality - (including abortion)

Number of deaths - Nil
 Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - Nil.

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from all causes	11	9	20

Rate per 1,000 population 8.1. {Correction Factor 1.56} Corrected 12.6.
 {England and Wales 11.9}

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The only diseases notified during 1968 were 3 cases of measles.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Registrar General's Return

<u>Diseases</u>					M	F	1968 Total
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	..	..	..		-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Other forms of heart disease	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
Cerebrovascular disease	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..		-	2	2
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Bronchitis and emphysema	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	..	..	..		1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	..	..	..		1	-	1
Total all causes					11	9	20
Total deaths - all causes - 1967					14	4	18

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL
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HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Bulmer Area is the largest in population of the ten areas into which the North Riding is divided, for the day to day administration of the Health Service. Its constituent parts are the Rural Districts of Easingwold, Flaxton, Thirsk and Wath, and it makes up the south-west corner of the Riding with an area of some 400 square miles, and a population of 64,030. Immediately to the North of York this is comparatively dense, but away from this suburban belt, the population is more or less evenly distributed in small townships and villages.

The Area County Offices at Easingwold are shared with Welfare; Mental Health; Children's, Highways and Planning Departments.

Your Medical Officer of Health holds appointments with the four District Councils, and the Health and Education Committees of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are available at the County Hospital, York, and at the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton.

Ambulance Service.

The accident scheme mentioned in my last report which extends over the length of the A1 in the North Riding has proved very successful, thanks to the most enthusiastic work done by those General Practitioners who participate and to the organisation which is set up to call them to the scene of an accident. Great interest has been shown in the scheme and there is hope that it may be copied widely in the future.

Maternity and child welfare.

The number of births has varied little since the previous year, thus halting the previously noted decline. 86% of births took place in hospital, a rise from 82.5% in 1967.

Nursing Service.

The following table shows staff employed at the year end:

	<u>Full time.</u>	<u>Part time.</u>
Health Visitors	6	3
Generalised duties	9	1
Combined duties	5	-
Midwifery only	-	-
Home nursing only	-	5

Great difficulty is experienced in finding suitably qualified nurses to undertake generalised duties and the time seems now ripe for re-organising the nursing service using less highly qualified persons to do the more routine tasks in home nursing, and with the decline in domiciliary confinements to have fewer nurses undertaking active midwifery in the home. There has been some interest shown by doctors to have nurses attached to practices, and where this is possible, this is being explored.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

A further change in the system of record keeping and of making appointments was made. A new development of the computer now makes out a sheet for each clinic showing those children due for some immunisation. In addition the parent is sent a post card making the appointment. A new schedule of ages at which each procedure should be carried out has been recommended by the ministry, and these do not now start until a child is 6 months old. This may account for an apparent slight fall in the number of children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, but as the following table demonstrates both before the use of the computer and after, the proportion of children protected was, and remains at a high level in this area.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Bulmer Area - total population	62,360	63,100	63,070	64,030	62,720
Number of live births in area	1,242	1,168	1,114	1,016	1,048
Children vaccinated against smallpox	598	702	709	764	718
Children immunised against diphtheria (primary)	910	1,174	1,050	961	877
Children immunised against diphtheria (booster)	710	708	975	1,341	1,472
Children immunised against whooping cough	902	1,150	1,013	957	863
Children completing primary polio course		1,195	1,037	957	971
Children completing tetanus course			1,189	1,004	887
Children vaccinated against measles					1,673

Figures relating to measles vaccination make their first appearance this year and this vaccine was offered to all primary school children who had not had the disease already. Some 700 school children were vaccinated, and in future vaccination will be offered on the second year of life. A good response by parents should mean a great reduction in the incidence of the disease.

Welfare Foods.

Continue to be sold at certain clinics and centres, but gradually the village shops are ceasing to act as agents for these items. The demand for welfare milk and supplements continues at a constant level, but sales of proprietary foods at clinics is much greater.

Domestic Help Service.

An interesting feature of this service is the growth in the number of aged persons receiving help whilst the total number of hours worked has remained stationary. The few maternity cases is again a reflection of the trend to hospital confinements. At present help is charged at 6/- per hour, but only 44 recipients paid this, the majority being assessed according to income. The services of a domestic help supervisor were available thus relieving the nursing staff of much of the tedium of recruitment and arrangements.

Chiropody.

Following the rapid expansion when the service first became available, difficulties in finding chiropodists able to work on a sessional basis has occurred, and the answer may well be to find a full time chiropodist.

Care and after-care.

Apparatus and nursing aids are available on short term loan, but permanent provision becomes the responsibility of the Welfare Dept. and the hospital service. Free milk continues to be available to tuberculosis patients on the recommendation of a chest physician but with the decreased incidence of the disease and the rapid recovery normally achieved by modern drugs, the number of cases thus assisted has declined rapidly over the past 10 years.

Family Planning.

Family planning is provided at York, Huntington and Thirsk through the agency of the F.P.A. The National Health Service (Family Planning) Act, 1967, was implemented during the year which extended the financial assistance beyond those for whom planning was necessary on medical grounds. The County Council pays for attendance and treatment for those who but for family planning might create, or be faced with severe social problems, and the cost of examination and advice is extended to all those who wish to avail themselves of the service.

Cervical Cytology.

In my report for 1967 I commented upon the decline in new people coming forward for this anti-cancer test, and as an experiment the health education service and interim campaign was instituted in the Thirsk area to try out the effect of circulation and calling on all women in the appropriate age group. As a result over 1,200 completed questionnaires were collected, 720 women asked for the test to be carried out. Shortly, those women who were amongst the first to be screened will be due for a re-test after the lapse of 3 years and the work of this service should eventually become established on a non-fluctuating basis, one hopes gradually becoming increasingly accepted as a necessity of healthy life for all women.

Nursery and Child Minders.

The increasing tendency for the formation of play-groups by enthusiasts which was mentioned in my previous report has continued last year. Play groups or nurseries are established at Clifton, New Earswick, Strensall (2), Heworth, Osbaldwick, Skelton, Haxby, Easingwold, Thirsk, Sand Hutton, Huntington and Rawcliffe, whilst the requirements under new legislation for all people to register who look after a child for gain, has resulted in a considerable increase of registration.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC
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HEALTH INSPECTOR
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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1968.

I would again like to thank all members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M.D. HEY

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Water Supplies

The statutory water undertakers in the area are the Claro Water Board and the Ryedale Joint Water Board.

Several commercial premises along the A.1. and many farms and isolated dwellings are not connected to the public supply but have their own borehole supply.

19 samples, for bacteriological examination, were taken from the public supplies, all but one of which were satisfactory.

35 samples, for bacteriological examination, were taken from private supplies, 22 of which were satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal

Work on the Cundall-with-Leckby mains drainage scheme and the Rainton Sewage Disposal Works extension were completed and brought into operation during the year.

Villages which are still to be provided with adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities are Marton-le-Moor, Hutton Conyers, Middleton Quernhow and Baldersby St. James.

A survey of the Rainton sewers showed that the surface water from 33 properties was discharging into the foul sewer and that foul sewage from 2 properties was discharging into the surface water sewer. The Works were designed to receive and treat foul sewage only and will not, therefore, cope with the additional demand of the surface water. Because of this additional volume of sewage passing through the works in time of rain, the sewage receives insufficient settlement time with a resultant poor effluent. In times of heavy rain the inflow is so great that the settlement tanks and humus tanks are flooded and the sewage receives virtually no treatment; the crude sewage passing from the settlement tanks causes blockages in the distributor arms and the crude sewage is forced to spill over on to the filter beds. A scheme for the complete separation of foul and surface water has been prepared.

Considerable trouble has also been experienced at the inlet to the Rainton Works. Silt deposits at the screen, which is placed across the sewer inlet, and together with the screenings causes an obstruction to the flow; the sewage thus backs up into the sewer.

Two pumps are provided to pump the settlement tank effluent to the filter bed distributors at the Rainton Works. One of these pumps is intended as a standby, but is not, in fact, wired to start automatically if the first pump fails. At present the second pump runs complimentary to the first when the flow of sewage through the works exceeds the capabilities of the first pump. It was not originally designed to do this, but has probably been modified in an attempt to cope with the surface water drainage. The filter beds will not cope with the effluent pumped from both pumps simultaneously, the effect being that the beds are flooded and the sewage not properly treated.

Complaints were received during the summer that in times of exceptionally heavy rain the road in the vicinity of Melmerby Hall became flooded. Observations of the sewer between the village and the works during times of heavy rain showed this sewer to be surcharged. Provision of a storm water overflow in the north-east corner of O.S. field No. 47 (which lies behind Melmerby Hall) should relieve the flooding which occurs.

The 10" sewer from Wath village to the Works is in a defective state where it passes through field O.S. No. 340 (English's field at rear of Kay & Backhouse). For a distance of approximately 230 yards the sewer is at ground level, the top half of the pipe being exposed and unprotected. The pipes are broken in numerous places and the pipes are in an advanced state of perishing along the whole of this length.

The Asenby stormwater overflow sewer has, for some time, been blocked, and investigations have shown that it is blocked with tree roots. Replacement is necessary.

To overcome the frequent collapses of the Wath filter bed walls, new concrete block perimeter walls were built around the existing uncoursed stone walls. The work was carried out by direct labour at a cost of £357-0-0d.

A piped supply of water was laid, by contract, to the Wath Works at a cost of £144-0-0d.

The 96 yard long open gutter, alongside Cocklakes Lane, Marton-le-Moor, and which carried effluent from the settling tanks, was filled in and a new 9" pipe laid to carry the effluent to the existing sewer in O.S. field No. 124. The work was carried out by direct labour.

Of 7 effluent samples taken, from the six sewage disposal works, by the Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority only one, from the Wath Works, and due to a faulty distributor arm later rectified, was unsatisfactory.

Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse is let out to contract. Collection takes place on a fortnightly frequency with the exception of 48 married quarters at Dishforth R.A.F. Station which receive a weekly collection. The larger catering establishments also receive a weekly collection of refuse. Collection of refuse from the Police Training Centre and M.O.D. Dishforth is carried out twice a week.

Disposal is by crude tipping over the edge of a worked-out quarry in the Hutton Conyers Parish (King Quarry, Rainton). Frequent nuisance is caused by smoke, smell and litter, and because of the vast area of exposed refuse, fly infestations and rat infestations are difficult and expensive to control. The tip is within 250 yards of a large catering establishment. Management and customers of this establishment have from time to time complained of nuisance from the tip and I myself have experienced the stench from the tip at a distance of half a mile. Over a number of years refuse has been tipped over the 150 yard perimeter of the quarry and the face of the tip has an average slope distance of 50 ft. Efforts over the last year have reduced the area of uncovered refuse from approximately 2,500 sq. yds. to a little under 2,000 sq. yds., and tipping of crude refuse restricted to a 60 yard section of the perimeter.

For many years local authorities throughout the country have been providing, at considerable expense, plant for treating sewage waste from their communities and this Council, in particular, is well advanced with providing such facilities throughout their area. Yet relatively few have given the same consideration to disposal of the other principal community waste - refuse.

The cost of providing a mechanical plant for the treatment of the refuse waste for the whole of a district would probably be less than the cost of providing sewage disposal facilities for one village, yet tipping remains the common method of disposal in rural areas. More control of this Council's tip is obviously necessary as an immediate step, but as a longer term measure consideration ought to be given to mechanical disposal, perhaps in consortium with neighbouring local authorities.

Lay-by litter baskets on trunk roads are emptied at regular intervals, the cost being reimbursed by the North Riding County Council. The verges in the vicinity of the lay-bys however have generally been in a deplorable state, and only regular scavenging will keep them reasonably clear of scattered litter.

To accord with Section 18 of the Civic Amenities Act 1967, King Quarry Tip, Rainton, was named as the place where refuse, other than refuse falling to be disposed of in the course of a business, may be deposited free of charge by residents of the area.

Bulky items of household refuse are collected free, and a number of residents have taken advantage of this special service.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

Most of the local authorities' powers under Part III of this Act and Regulations made thereunder came into effect on 27th January, 1968. The power of local authorities under this Act to remove abandoned motor vehicles became a statutory obligation to do so on 27th July, 1968.

This Act has proved to be of great assistance in the removal of abandoned vehicles, and during the year action was taken in respect of 11 vehicles, as shown in the table below:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Result</u>
Van	A.l.	runner	statutory	collected by owner.
Motor cycle	Rainton village	wreck	informal	removed by owner.
Saloon car	Baldersby village	runner	informal	removed by owner.
Estate car	Baldersby village	runner	informal	removed by owner.
Saloon car	Rainton village	runner	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Saloon car	A.l.	runner	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Saloon car	A.l.	wreck	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Saloon car	A.l.	runner	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Motor scooter	A.l.	runner	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Saloon car	A.l.	wreck	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.
Saloon car	A.l.	runner	statutory	disposed of by R.D.C.

Most of the vehicles abandoned on the A.l. appeared to have been abandoned at the place where they had broken down on journey, but in one case it was obvious that the car had been towed to that place for the purpose of being dumped.

In all possible cases the Council levied the charges prescribed by the Removal & Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968 and, together with the sale of unclaimed vehicles, a total of £51-10-0d was received. The cost to the Council for removals, storage and disposal amounted to £6-18-11d. This cost does not, however, reflect the cost of administration which considerably outweighs the costs referred to.

Food Hygiene

There are 6 general food stores, 7 licensed premises, 3 cafes and 2 private school canteens in the area. 58 food hygiene inspections were made; 61 unsatisfactory conditions were found, 56 of which were remedied by informal action by the end of the year.

Ice-Cream

7 premises within the district are licensed to sell ice-cream. All obtain ice-cream pre-packed from manufacturers and store it in modern deep-freeze cabinets until sold. A number of vans from outside the area retail ice-cream. There are no manufacturing premises.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses or poultry processing stations within the district.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

There are 10 premises within the district registered under the Act. 8 premises received a general inspection during the year. 42 visits to registered premises were made; five contraventions were found and remedied.

Factory Inspection

There are 7 registered factories within the area all of which received a general inspection during the year.

Pest Control

A total of 69 properties were visited and inspected during the year to investigate rodent infestation complaints and for survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Treatments were carried out by direct labour.

Several inspections were made, and treatments carried out, in connection with complaints of infestations of flies, wasps, ants, thrips, grain weavils, beetles etc.

Topcliffe Fair

This annual event was again well attended by gipsies and travelling dealers of all kinds. Contact was established with the "head gipsy" and his co-operation received, and as a result latrines and refuse pits were dug and, to a large extent, used. The agent acting for the owners arranged for the whole site to be cleaned and limed within a few days of the end of the horse fair, and also restricted the stay of the caravans.

Private Building Work

A total of 60 plans were submitted for consideration under the Building Regulations 1965, an increase of 30% over any previous year.

Eight private dwellings were completed during the year.

Housing (Financial-Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 1938-1968

No applications for grant aid under these provisions were received during the year.

Improvement Grants - Discretionary

No applications were received during the year but two schemes were completed and grants of £555-0-0d paid out.

Improvement Grants - Standard

During the year standard grant in respect of one dwelling was approved.

The work of providing standard amenities to three dwellings was completed and the grants totalling £266-0-0d paid out.

Amenities in Houses

Out of a total of 767 houses in the area 30 (3.9%) are lacking a water closet and 84 (11%) are lacking bathroom accommodation.

Unfit Housing

7 houses were inspected for housing defects and five found to be unfit for human habitation in some respect. 3 houses were closed by undertakings made under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1957, one house was made fit after informal action and action was pending at the end of the year in respect of one house.

Nuisances

36 inspections were made in connection with nuisances, 17 nuisances were found, 13 of which were abated by informal action and 2 by statutory action.

Dangerous Buildings

One dangerous building was demolished as a result of statutory action.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector in respect of the year 1968 for the rural district council of Wath in the county of Yorkshire (North Riding).

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . .	7	7	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - 0.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork - (Sections 110 - 111) - Nil Return.

